

Montana and the sky



Department of Transportation - Aeronautics Division

Vol. 43, No. 7

July 1992

Yellowstone Airport Open for Season

By: Jerry Burrows, Chief
Airport/Airways Bureau

The Yellowstone Airport located near West Yellowstone, Montana—adjacent to Yellowstone National Park—has opened for its 28th summer season.

The Yellowstone Airport and the Grand Canyon Airport are the only two airports in the United States built entirely with federal funds, specifically for the purpose of providing convenient, close public air transportation to these two national parks. The Montana and Arizona Aeronautics Commissions (the state aviation agency) were designated as the logical state agencies with the expertise to operate and maintain these national park gateways.

Having an airport, especially as beautiful as the Yellowstone Airport, given to you to operate is great. But, unlike other air-carrier airports, i.e. Billings, Bozeman, Helena, etc., we do not have a tax base to help support the airport. All users of the airport contribute financially towards its support, except the federal government, one of its biggest users.

If you are in the area, stop by and visit. Jeff Heaney, Airport Manager, and Darren Kaighn, Firefighter Supervisor, will assist you in any way possible. Joe Roos, Custodian, can be seen at night tidying up the terminal. Call 646-7631 to reach airport staff.

Cherished tenants include: Skywest Airlines, 646-7351 (the Delta Connection) with direct service to Salt Lake City, three times each day; Yellowstone Aviation, 646-

7359, the fixed base operator providing fuel, tiedowns, etc., and soon to have hangar storage; and the Airport Cafe, 646-7670, managed by Dave Powell. Rental cars are available from National Car Rental, 646-7670; Avis Car Rental, 646-7635; or Budget Car Rental (new to the airport this year), 646-7882.

The airport is located about one mile northwest of town and is 8,400' x 150' asphalt, RW 1/19, high intensity lighting, Radio Control 3, 5, 7 clicks for lights, MALSR and REIL, elevation 6,644', watch density altitude on hot days, unicom 122.8,

ILS Rwy 1 - 110.7, LOM 415, MALSR(RC) Rwy 19 VASI REIL (RC), NDB 338, RCO to Idaho Falls 122.45.

Free pilot campground, tables, water, firewood, restroom, etc.

Get away for a few days and take advantage of this great deal.

Our annual fly-in will be held over Labor Day weekend again. Make plans now to attend. More information will be available on this event next month.

If for any reason you can't reach someone at the airport, call us in Helena at 444-2506.



Administrator's Column

Thank You to Air Search Volunteers: I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the air search volunteers who have been kept so busy this past month. Just when we think it's over, we have another air search. Not only do you volunteer your time and flying skills, you also volunteer your aircraft and even though your fuel is provided, that is only a small portion of the cost associated with operating an aircraft. Many of you who also deserve a big *thank you* may not have an aircraft, or it may be unsatisfactory for air search but you volunteer yourselves as observers or help with the air search coordination. It all takes a great deal of teamwork and you are always there to volunteer your help. We at the Aeronautics Division could not fulfill our responsibilities of air search without you and I want you to know how proud we are of you and how much you are appreciated.

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FAA College Research Grants: The FAA will be awarding \$2.2 million to six universities to conduct studies on ways to increase aviation safety. The grants are authorized under the new Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act and are expected to increase to \$15 million in the future. The future grants are to fund research programs including improved cabin safety and to address increases in the level of aviation security. The following universities will receive the \$2.2 million in grants: Massachusetts Institute of Technology - \$169,000; Purdue Research Foundation - \$800,000; University of Utah - \$125,091; University of Washington - \$252,726; Lehigh University - \$770,000; and Rutgers University - \$137,556. Each institution is given a certain task to work on that includes studying axial crack propagation and arrest in pressurized fuselages; investigate corrosion and fatigue of airframe materials; interaction of water sprays with fire flume in aircraft cabin fires; investigate fretting corrosion and fretting fatigue in rivet hole cracks; airborne hazard alert systems; collision risk analysis for air traffic control environments; and effects of hail and water that is ingested by operating aircraft fanjet engines.

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EPA Rules on Used Oil: The Environmental Protection Agency has recently released their ruling on "USED OIL" by determining that it will NOT be listed as hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). In addition, the EPA also determined that most oil filters are exempt from the hazardous waste regulation if they are drained of oil. FBOs need to check with the EPA to learn which oil filters are exempt and which are not. This is good news for FBOs as originally the EPA proposed to include used oil as a hazardous waste under the regulation.

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Product Liability Reform Receives Setback: Senators Kasten (WIS) and Danforth (MO) failed in their attempt to include two Product Liability Reform bills in the National Voter Registration Act (S.250). The amendment failed by three votes and according to an article in Business Aviation they quote the Product Liability Coordinating Committee as stating this "reflects the power and influence of the trial lawyers and their lobbying arm, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, who control so much of the Senate agenda." Senators Kasten and Danforth are committed to finding other means of getting the two product liability bills to the Senate floor.



Montana and the Sky
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Official monthly publication
of the
Aeronautics Division
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Helena, Montana 59604
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Montana and the Sky is published monthly
in the interest of aviation in the
State of Montana.

Third Class postage paid at
Helena, Montana 59604

Subscription: \$3 per year
Editor: Debbie Alke
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Airport Board Praises Tocci

The Chairman of the Gallatin County Airport Board, Ray Tocci, was commended for his many years of service at the May board meeting. Ray announced that his term of office would expire on the first of July and that he would not accept reappointment.

The airport board, recognizing Ray for his many years of service and leadership, thanked him for the countless hours he devoted to supervising the development of the Three Forks Airport/Progreba Field.

Thanks to Ray's efforts over past years, the airport has developed into one of the state's best small community, general aviation airports. Under his tenure, the airport received federal grants that resulted in a site selection study, master plan for future development, property purchase for clear zones and paving of a 4,100' runway. Modern airport lighting and a beacon make the airport available on a 24-hour basis.

Ray will be missed but stated that even though he was retiring, he would continue to assist the airport in any way possible.

Townsend Airport Construction

The Townsend Airport will be closed beginning June 22 for approximately 90 days while construction takes place. The airport will undergo major renovation.

Some of the improvements to be made include: realignment of the runway, VASI installation, runway lights, runway light controller, new tiedown area, and the building of new hangars.

Townsend will advise when airport construction is complete.

National Forest Dedication

The Helena National Forest Headquarters Dedication took place May 28, 1992. The building is located north of the airline terminal. The offices were moved from the federal building located in downtown Helena. The \$1 million building boasts 18,000 square feet and houses 65 employees.

Dignitaries in attendance included Max Baucus, U.S. Senate, Mrs. Cindy Marlenee for Honorable Ron Marlenee, U.S. House of Representatives, Stan Stephens, Governor of Montana, Kay McKenna, Helena City Mayor, General Gary Blair, Montana National Guard Adjutant General, Jim Sewell, Helena Regional Airport Authority Chairman, and Ernie Nunn, Forest Supervisor.



Ron Mercer, Helena Airport Manager (left), and Jim Sewell, Helena Airport Authority Chairman (right), present a plaque welcoming Ernie Nunn, Forest Supervisor, and the Helena National Forest Headquarters to the Helena Airport.

Calendar

June 27 - July 5—North to Alaska '92 Air Tour.

July 4—Airshow, Baker.

July 10 - 12—Sixth Annual Family Fun Fly-in and Safety Expo, Kalispell.

July 11—EAA Chapter 57's Third Annual Breakfast Fly-in, Laurel Airport, Laurel.

July 12—Fly-in Breakfast, Seeley Lake. Transportation provided 0800 - 1130. Call unicom 122.9. Land Runway 34, unless winds dictate otherwise.

July 13—Aeronautics Board Meeting, Yellowstone Airport.

July 17 - 19—Schafer Meadows Work Session.

July 31 - August 2—MAAA Fly-in, Three Forks.

July 31 - August 6—40th Annual Experimental Aircraft Association Convention and Fly-in, Oshkosh, WI.

August 8—Mission Valley Fly-in, Polson Airport. Sponsored by Mission Mtn. Aviation, Inc. and MAAA; food and more.

August 15 - 16—Southwest Montana Fly-in, Anaconda 8/15 — Ennis 8/16.

August 23—Harlowton Breakfast Fly-in, all you can eat. Call Will Morse, 632-4545.

Sept. 5 - 7—Labor Day Fly-in, Yellowstone Airport, West Yellowstone.

Sept. 11 - 13—MPA Fall Fly-in, Glasgow.

Sept. 17 - 20—29th Annual Reno Air Races, Stead Airport, Reno.

Sept. 18 - 20—Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell.

Sept. 26—AOM Board Meeting, Helena.

Sept. 26 & 27—Columbus Day Celebration Fly-in, Columbus.

Oct. 6 - 12—National Aviation Education Week.

Feb. 5 - 7, 1993—Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Helena.

Feb. 24 - 27, 1993—Montana Aviation Conference, Holiday Inn, Missoula.

March 1 - 3, 1993—Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium, Bismark North Dakota.

4th Annual Benchmark Work Session



Left: The Benchmark Airfield located in the mountains about 30 miles west of Augusta received annual maintenance May 23-24. These participants are Howard Taylor of Great Falls and Burt Johnson of Conrad.

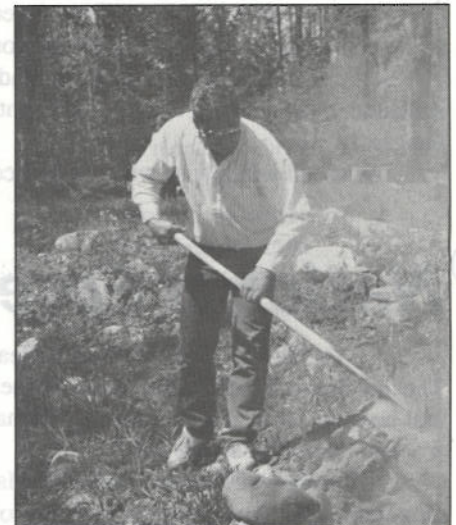


Above: Dr. Ted Beck of Helena supervises this runway paint crew. Vicki Beck and Brenda Spivey of Helena confirm that a woman's work is never done!



Above: Bob Lipscomb, Glasgow, digs the hole for placement of the baron-of-beef that will be smoked and served for dinner. Overseeing Bob's work is Mike Ferguson.

Right: Dinner preparations begin with Lanny Hanson, Glasgow, uncovering the beef.



Loren Smith, President, Great Falls MPA Hangar, serves the baron-of-beef and trimmings. Dinner was provided by the Great Falls Hangar and enjoyed by all.



The Benchmark Airfield was constructed in 1966 through a joint venture between the Montana Aeronautics Commission, the United States Forest Service (USFS), and the FAA. Alan Finlayson and Rick Trevas, both of Great Falls, cut firewood to stock for future campers.



Peggy Bair of Great Falls and Peggy Lipscomb of Glasgow freshen the airfield sign paint. The airfield boasts paved tiedown areas, a paved runway (6,000' x 100'), and is owned by the USFS.

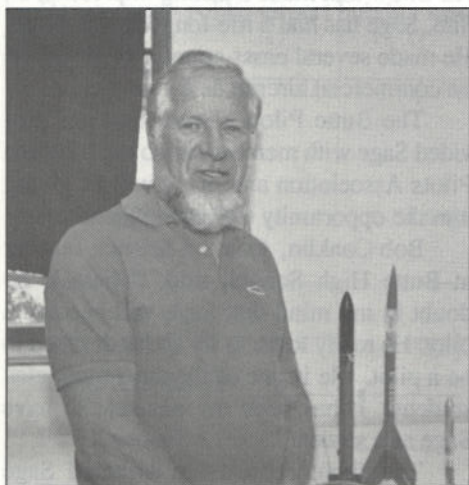
1992 Aviation/ Aerospace Teacher Workshops

By: Fred Hasskamp, Chief
Safety and Education Bureau

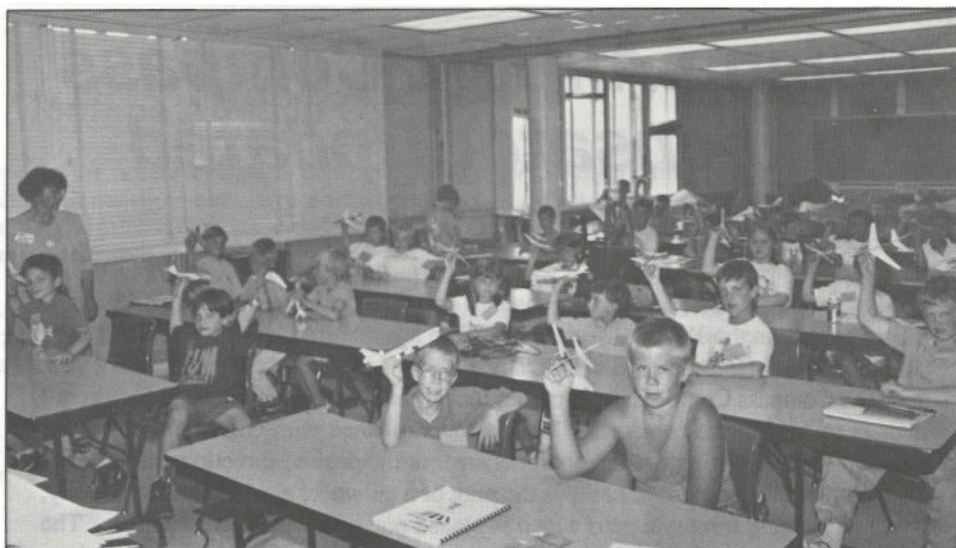
Montana Aeronautics Division sponsored two college level, aviation teacher workshops for Montana teachers. Carol Frederick directed the Billings workshop at Eastern Montana College and Jo Ann Eisenzimer directed the Missoula workshop at the University of Montana.

The purpose of these workshops is to encourage Montana Educators to become aware of the important part aviation and aerospace plays in the lives of each and every one of us. Career awareness and methods of incorporating aviation into current curriculum is also stressed. It is hoped that as a result of these workshops, aviation subjects will be used to create an interest and an awareness among our young people.

A wide variety of speakers made presentations at these workshops. Minot Parker, science lecturer for NASA, AMES Research Center; Georgia Franklin, Museum of Aviation, Boeing Field; Harold Bacon, Civil Air Patrol, Maxwell AFB, Alabama; Noel Bullock, Rocky Mountain Region CAP, Lowry AFB, Colorado; local FAA and NWS personnel and many others made these workshops such a success.



Minot Parker, NASA Education Specialist, spoke on NASA projects and certified educators to borrow moon rocks from NASA for use in their schools.



Jo Ann Eisenzimer directs the University of Montana Space Camp—Dragon Flight School for young students.



Workshop participants creatively and carefully built space rockets. Carol Frederick (center) awards a prize for the best built rocket.



Georgia Franklin entertains this group of interested educators. Portions of Georgia's lecture include women in aviation and the history of aviation in the Northwest.

Helena Airport Compass Compensator Updated

By: Redge Meierhenry, Aviation Representative
Airport/Airways Bureau

It was 1963 when Montana Aeronautics completed the installation of a Compass Compensator on the Helena Airport. The time has therefore come to revisit the installation and perform needed maintenance.

The Compass Compensator provides the airport a convenient method for aircraft owners to "swing the compass." This is accomplished with engines, radios, etc., operating and adjusting out the compass error at the desired directions of heading. The setup of the compensator allows the pilot of a tailwheel aircraft to do this easily, having a rotating turntable onto which is placed one of the main gear wheels. The addition of power and judicious use of brakes allows the aircraft to easily rotate around the turntable to any desired heading. For a nosewheel aircraft, sufficient pavement exists around the compensator to taxi into position, then taxi into the next position for compass calibration.

Since magnetic North does change, albeit slowly over the years, part of our maintenance, in addition to the normal repaint and lubricate, was to remark the pavement shaving the new directional alignment. A fresh coat of paint allows the pilot to easily identify the cardinal points when adjusting the compass for errors.

We hope next time you are in Helena with your aircraft that you take advantage of this facility. The compass compensator location is just north of the Aeronautics Division office, adjacent to the south perimeter taxiway.



Redge Meierhenry makes necessary adjustments to the compass compensator.



Butte Student Receives Scholarship

Sage F. Smith of Butte was recently awarded a \$250 flight scholarship by the Montana Aeronautics Division. Sage was selected as the top student in the Butte High School Aviation Science Class.

Sage was born in California, lived in Colorado, moved to Bozeman, and then to Butte where he entered Butte High School as a freshmen. He will be attending Montana Tech in the fall on a partial academic scholarship where he will be studying chemistry, leading to a degree in dentistry.

As a child, Sage was taken to various air shows, including the world famous Reno Air Show that made a lasting impression on him. Sage has had a life-long love of flying. He made several cross-country flights alone on commercial aircraft as a young child.

The Butte Pilots Association has provided Sage with membership to the Montana Pilots Association and many will be giving him the opportunity to fly with them.

Bob Conklin, Aviation Science Teacher at Butte High School, said, "There is no doubt in my mind that Sage will become a pilot. He really loves to fly and is destined to be a pilot. He is one of the most motivated students. It has been my pleasure to have Sage as a student."

The flight scholarship awarded Sage must be used for flight instruction at the FBO of his choice.

Congratulations, Sage! Good luck in your aviation endeavors.

Attention: Montana Airstrip Owners

The Montana Aeronautics Division is compiling the necessary data to complete the new 1993 Aeronautical Chart. All private airstrip owners are requested to fill out the following questionnaire. If your airstrip is already depicted on our most current chart and if we do not hear from you, we will assume that the information we already have is correct. Also, please let us know if your airstrip is inactive so that we may delete it from our next edition.

We have had a legal opinion that indicated an airstrip clearly depicted as being restricted and 1) privately owned; 2) not for public use; 3) having possible unreported hazards; 4) user assumes all risk; and 5) prior permission required will have less liability on the owner than one not shown on the chart, but clearly visible from the air and identifiable as an airstrip and, therefore could possibly be considered an invitation for public use.

Mail to: Aeronautical Chart Revisions
Montana Aeronautics Division
Box 5178
Helena, MT 59604

Privately Owned Airstrip Location

Name of Airstrip _____
Name of Owner _____
Owner's Mailing Address _____
Owner's Phone Number _____

Airstrip Location

Latitude _____ Longitude _____ County _____
Nearest Town _____ Direction _____ Miles _____
Does your airstrip serve as a community's only airport? Yes _____ No _____
Is your airstrip open to the public? Yes _____ No _____
Do you carry public airport liability insurance? Yes _____ No _____
Comments _____

Airstrip Data

Runway Direction	Length	Width	Approach Obstructions & Distances
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Airport Elevation _____ Unicom Radio? Yes _____ No _____
Fuel Available? Yes _____ No _____ Octane? _____ Emergency Only _____
Telephone Available? Yes _____ No _____ Phone Number _____
Airstrip Owner's Signature _____

Billings FSS To Close

On August 21, 1992, at 2 p.m., the Billings Flight Service Station (FSS) will close permanently. Billings has a full-time airport traffic control tower, as well as 24-hour weather observations provided by the National Weather Service, so impact to users should be minimal. Great Falls AFSS will assume responsibility for all services currently provided by Billings FSS, including telephone weather briefings, inflight radio coverage, and NOTAM dissemination.

Pat Terry, Operations Manager at Great Falls AFSS, will be at Lynch Flying Service on July 17, 1992, at 2 p.m. All local pilots are welcome to come and ask questions about FSS services in Montana.

Guinness Record Attempt

Craig Shergold is a seven year old suffering from terminal cancer. It is his ambition to be included in the Guinness Book of Records for the largest number of business cards ever collected by one person.

Craig would be grateful if you could send one of your business cards to the address below. Obviously, time is of the essence.

Address cards to: Craig Shergold, c/o Children's Make A Wish Foundation, 32 Perimeter Center, East, Atlanta, GA 30346.

Twenty-five hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 39¢ each, for a total cost of \$1,093. This includes \$50 for production, \$415 for postage and \$628 for printing.



July 1992

Bulk Rate
Postage Paid at
Helena, MT 59620
Permit No. 89

PO Box 5178
Helena, Montana 59604